

# Valley Presbyterian Church

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## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

**FEBRUARY 5**  
10:30PM  
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION

**FEBRUARY 6**  
7PM  
COMMISSION MTGS

**FEBRUARY 9**  
9:30AM  
VALLEY KNITTERS  
7PM  
DEACONS MTG

**FEBRUARY 11**  
7PM  
HOV'S BRIGHT NIGHT

**FEBRUARY 14**  
1PM  
SARAH CIRCLE

**FEBRUARY 20**  
7PM  
SESSION MTG

**FEBRUARY 22**  
7:30PM  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**FEBRUARY 29**  
6PM  
LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AT VALLEY

Come worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 AM!

# The Valley Voice

The monthly newsletter of Valley Presbyterian Church

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO

FEBRUARY, 2012



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

### “Be Still and Know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)

This coming Sunday is date of our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Presbyterian Church. It is a time when we look back upon the reports and news of the year just passed, and set our eyes forward to the hopes and plans for the year ahead. It is the time when we elect

new elders and deacons to serve as the spiritual and servant leaders of the church, while saying thanks to those who have completed their terms of faithful service.

When we traverse these passages

from one period of time to the next – whether a day or a year or a generation – we are reminded of how much can change so quickly. Sometimes, it feels as if we are riding upon these great waves of change; preventing us from hearing the “still small voice” of God speaking to us.

And so, in recognition of the great waves of change around us, we seek as a church to provide a place

where we can both learn to adapt and to be still. For we know that God exists both in the sometimes chaotic activity and in the quiet stillness. So, to fully hear God speaking, we need to experience both.

For seven weeks as we travel through Lent and towards Easter, we will be focusing in our worship and study on what matters most: Jesus Christ, and on how to create stillness in our bodies and minds to truly worship and serve him. More information about the spring sermon and study series can be found on page 2.

In addition, we will join with other members of the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches on Wednesdays in Lent for soup suppers and

See “Be Still” next page

## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 22, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

Please join us on Wednesday, February 22 as we begin the journey to Easter with a service of remembrance, penitence, and prayer with the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes.

### CVCC Wednesday Lenten Dinners, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

The Chagrin Valley Council of Churches invites you to gather on Wednesdays during Lent for soup suppers followed by members of host congregations who will be “Telling our Stories” as a witness to their ministry in service to the Gospel. The schedule:

February 29 – Valley Presbyterian Church  
March 7 – Auburn Community UCC  
March 14 – Holy Angels Catholic Parish  
March 21 – Bainbridge Community UCC  
March 28 – Lord of Life Lutheran Church



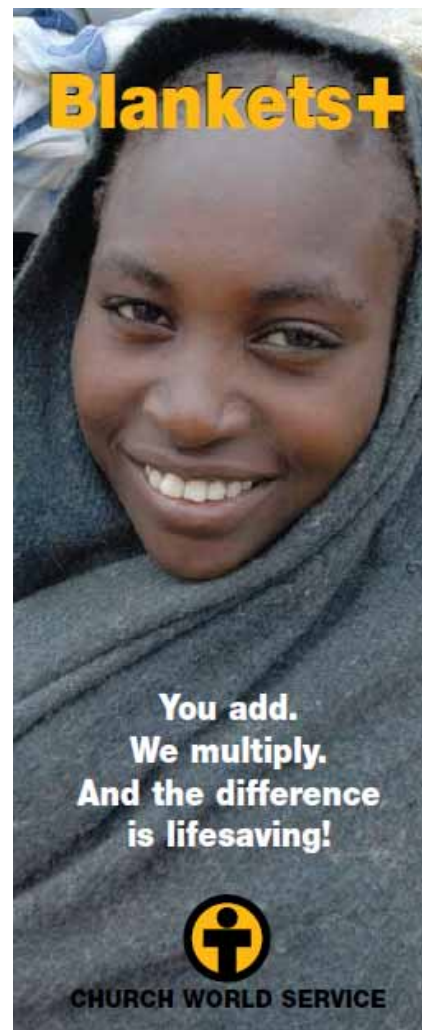
“Be Still...”

programs. This year, we will be “Telling our Stories” to one another, sharing testimony of how the love of God has been seen and shared in how we serve as Jesus’ disciples. The schedule for these gatherings is on this page.

Finally, we will continue to work as a session and a congregation through the “Starting New Initiatives” program of the PCUSA. As we take a closer look at the questions: *Who are we? Who is our neighbor? and Where is God calling us?* we hope to build up one another as a church and better respond to the needs of our community.

To be still is not to be inactive, but to place ourselves in the position that we can listen for God speaking to us not just through the chaos, but also the quiet. May we all hear God’s voice.

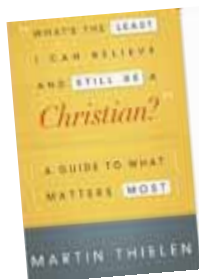
In Christ,  
Pastor John



“What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?”

A Guide to What Matters Most

By Martin Thielen



On Sunday, February 19, Valley Presbyterian will embark on what should be an exciting journey of discovery! Our worship services and Adult Education classes will focus on an engaging book about the core beliefs of mainline Christianity.

In short, while there are things that we *don't* need to believe, Christians need to believe in Jesus – his life, teachings, example, death, resurrection and church. During these seven weeks, we will address important faith questions first during Sunday worship services and then again during the Tuesday evening (7:00 p.m.), Thursday afternoon (1:00 p.m.) and Sunday morning (9:15 a.m.) Adult Education classes in Room 113. The books are available for \$9 in the narthex or the church office.

Here is the schedule of topics that we will be exploring:

- Sunday, February 19: (Don't) Gimme Me That Old-Time Religion
- Sunday, February 26: Jesus' Priority: What Matters Most?
- Sunday, March 4: Jesus' Grace: Am I Accepted?
- Sunday, March 11: Jesus' Work: Where Is God?
- Sunday, March 18: Jesus' Example: What Brings Fulfillment?
- Sunday, March 25: Jesus' Death: What about Suffering?
- Sunday, April 1: Jesus Resurrection: Is There Hope?

This will be a great time to invite family members, friends and neighbors to visit our church! So, start thinking about who you might want to invite to come and see what being a Christian and a part of Valley is all about.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

Blanket+ Sunday

Give the world a Valentine by contributing to Blankets+ in February

Sunday, February 19, is Blankets+ Sunday at Valley. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world.

Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to feed their families

Through the Blankets+ Program we provide urgently needed resources to those in need. The right tool at the right time can make a world of difference. Please consider a generous contribution to Blankets+ in February. Offering envelopes will be available in the bulletin in mid February.

In Service, Valley Mission Commission

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future. Through this per member offering, Presbyterians:

- are trained to become better elders and ministers,
- participate in the life of the wider church by serving Committees, Commissions, and the biennial General Assembly,
- discern God’s call to service,
- preserve our heritage,
- participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to share the Gospel, and
- work and live in fellowship with “all persons in every nation.” (Book of Order, G-4.0101)

**This year’s per capita amount is \$24 per member.** For those who use offering envelopes - the blue envelope is for your per capita donation. For those who don’t use envelopes, we ask that you consider offering this amount in addition to your regular offering.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 — Joe Kim
- 1 — Mari Hageman
- 6 — Paul Esposito
- 8 — Gene Kurtz
- 11 — Jeff Louis
- 12 — Bill Nemeth
- 13 — Bill Foulks
- 14 — Dick Doughman
- 28 — Payton Hildebrand



SARAH CIRCLE MEETS FEBRUARY 14

Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 1:00 pm, in the home of Jean Strand. We will be studying Lesson 6 in "Confessing the Beatitudes". Carol Ferguson will lead the study this month. Please call Jean, Circle Leader, for more information. All Valley women welcome to attend.

Montreat Youth Conference “Perfectly Imperfect” June 9-16, 2012



Montreat is a Presbyterian Conference Center located in the mountains of North Carolina. Each summer, thousands of youth from across the country gather for a fantastic week of study, worship, fellowship and recreation. Youth currently in 8th -12th grade are eligible to attend. For anyone interested in learning more about Montreat. Contact Pastor John with any questions.

Save your unwanted treasures for the Spring Youth Rummage Sale

The youth group will be holding its annual rummage sale later this spring. Please start collecting and setting aside household goods, toys, furniture, sporting goods etc. (no clothing please) that could be donated for the rummage sale. If you need to drop items at church or have them picked up at your home, contact Pastor John.



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VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. John Wahl, Pastor  
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Email: revjohnwahl@netlink.net

Liz Wertz, Communications Specialist  
Email: valleypc@netlink.net

Nancy Sullivan, Director of Music  
Organist: John Kautzman  
Bell Choir Director: Diana Huff

Hours & Schedule  
9:15 AM—Adult Christian Education  
10:30 AM—Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
11:30 AM—Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall  
Church School Schedule September 11 through May  
Bible Story Time (PreK-5th Grade): 9:15-10:15 AM  
6th & 7th grades: 9:30-10:15 AM

PreK-5th grades: Attend first part of worship at 10:30 AM; excused to class after “Children’s Moment.” Worship with family each 1st Communion Sunday.  
Nursery (child care provided for children, birth through age 3)  
9:00-11:30 AM in Room 129 (child care provided through age 4 for family worship service)

Operating with Valley Presbyterian Church  
HEART OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL  
Co-Directors: Holly Blazek and Heidi Cregar  
Phone: (440) 708-2572 Email: hovcp@netlink.net Web: www.heartofvalley.org



# February 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

**Bright Night**  
Heart of Valley's BIGGEST fun-raising party!  
**Saturday February 11**  
7:00PM at the Pine Lake Trout Club

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 1PM Adult Ed 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>3</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>4</b> 8:30AM CVECA Winter Party 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA	<b>5</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION 11:30AM Fellowship Hr 7PM Youth Group	<b>6</b> 7PM Commission Mtgs	<b>7</b> 7PM Adult Ed	<b>8</b> 8:30PM AA	<b>9</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 1PM Adult Ed 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>10</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>11</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM HOV's Bright Night Fundraiser 7PM AA			
<b>12</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Fellowship Hr	<b>13</b> 9:30AM Valley Knitters 7PM Deacons Meeting	<b>14</b> 12PM CVCC Mtg 1PM Sarah Circle	<b>15</b> MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30PM AA	<b>16</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>17</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>18</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA	<b>19</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Fellowship Hr 7PM Youth Group	<b>20</b> 7PM Session Meeting	<b>21</b> 7PM Adult Ed	<b>22</b> 7:30PM Ash Wed. Service 8:30PM AA	<b>23</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 1PM Adult Ed 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>24</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>25</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA
<b>26</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Fellowship Hr	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7PM Adult Ed	<b>29</b> 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper 8:30PM AA	Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.  1 Peter 4:8									

## update on Dougbe River Presbyterian School

The Dougbe River Presbyterian School is a mission of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve to build a school in a remote, extremely impoverished area in the west African nation of Liberia where there has never been a school before. The mission comes from a call felt by Isaac Monah, a Presbyterian Elder at Noble Road Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, who grew up in Liberia before fleeing the civil-war ravaged country in 1990. Learn more at [www.drpsl.org](http://www.drpsl.org)

### 2011 Annual Report

Here's where we stand at the beginning of 2012:

Two classroom buildings and a house for the principal and guests are nearly complete. There's hope that some of the other buildings, especially those for faculty housing, might go up sooner than we thought. And we have made great strides in raising the global profile of our project, with exciting new partnerships.

But no, we didn't open the school in 2011, as we had hoped. Some members of the board, including myself, felt some frustration about the pace of our progress. The year started with a reality check about the difficulties of building in a region where war had destroyed the infrastructure. Roads had been a problem before, but now that we were moving construction supplies, bridges were a major issue, too. Construction got behind schedule. The rainy season came. The problems with bridges persisted. So we still aren't quite done with the classroom buildings, but our volunteers and the contractor are working on the roofs. You can see lots of photos of the construction process at our website, [www.drpsl.org](http://www.drpsl.org).

In other ways, it was a very exciting year. Isaac Monah, who began this mission after feeling a call to start a school in his home region, made two trips to Liberia, and came back both times with news about international partnerships.

In July, Isaac visited with Jacques C.O. Adegbidi, a regional mission support officer for the United Nations Mission in Liberia, who told Isaac he was moved by conditions in what he called "the forgotten villages." Since then, the UN staff in Grand Gedeh County has assisted us with transportation issues and has brought national attention to the project by featuring it on its radio news programs.



Isaac Monah in front of the future Dougbe River Presbyterian School

In December, Isaac returned to show the site to Dirk Raateland of German Agro Action, a non-governmental organization that is working on several projects to help the people of southeastern Liberia. They now plan to build latrines and hand-pumps for wells on our campus, and help with roads and bridges. The organization has a particular interest in constructing living quarters for teachers, having learned that this is a critical factor in sustaining schools in rural Africa. Mr. Raateland also spoke about the Dougbe River project on one of those UN radio broadcasts.

Some other key developments of the year:

- The Presbytery of the Western Reserve adopted the Dougbe River school as a validated mission. Fourteen of the churches that make up the Presbytery, which is based in Cleveland, have contributed to the mission.
- The children of Roxboro Elementary School in Cleveland Heights continued to be valuable partners, raising money through T-shirt sales, games and a one-mile walk. We also received a gift from children at Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beachwood.
- Mr. Raateland also spoke about the Dougbe River project on one of those UN radio broadcasts.
- Isaac and General Board member Scott McGraw got a chance to promote the school in Des Moines, Iowa, at a gathering of the Grand Gedeh Association of America.

With God's help, and with yours, we're getting there.

John Luttermoser  
Secretary of the General Board